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**METHOD AND APPARATUS TO BACKUP, UPDATE  
AND SHARE DATA AMONG IMPLANTABLE  
CARDIAC STIMULATION DEVICE PROGRAMMERS**

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**Abstract of the Disclosure**

A system is provided for backing up and synchronizing data stored  
10 within a set of programmers used for programming implantable cardiac  
stimulation devices such as pacemakers or implantable cardioverter  
defibrillators (ICDs). The data from the programmers that is backed up  
and synchronized includes programmer software, set up and  
configuration data, programming parameters, patient personal data,  
15 implantable device diagnostic data, and patient diagnostic data received  
from implanted devices. The implanted devices are classified into one or  
more groups and the programmer backup system merges and  
synchronizes data received from all programmers within a particular  
group. In other words, the backup system operates to ensure that each  
20 programmer within a particular group shares the same set up and  
configuration data, programmer software, patient contact data, and  
device diagnostic information. Programmers within different groups may  
have different data stored therein, particularly different set up and  
configuration data, patient data and the like. The merging and  
25 synchronization of data may depend upon the particular type of data. For  
example, all devices connected to the backup system may be  
synchronized to have the same programmer software, whereas only  
programmers within a particular group may be synchronized to have the  
same set up and configuration data, patient data, and the like.